

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 ACDA-10 /089 W
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R 221710Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3095
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

UNCLAS LIMA 11521

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS, PINT, PE
SUBJECT: NAVY MINISTER DENIES ALLEGED NAVY PURCHASE
OF SOVIET PLANES

1. NAVY MINISTER PARODI UPON HIS RETURN FROM SANTIAGO
DECEMBER 21 CATEGORICALLY DENIED TO NEWSMAN THAT THE
PERUVIAN NAVY HAS PURCHASED THE SOVIET VERTICAL TAKE-OFF
AIRCRAFT, YAK. THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE WEEKLY LIMA TIMES
HAD REPORTED DECEMBER 17 THAT ACCORDING TO THE LONDON
DAILY TELEGRAPH, THE "PERUVIAN NAVY HAS BOUGHT AN UNDIS-
CLOSED NUMBER OF YAK...PLANES". THE ARTICLE WENT ON
THAT THE ALLEGED SOVIET SALE OF THE SOPHISTICATED YAK,
SEEN FOR THE FIRST TIME BY WESTERN OBSERVERS IN JULY ABOARD THE
RUSSIAN CARRIER KIEV, TO A NON-WARSAW PACT NATION, IS "UNPRECEDENTED"
AND FOR "POLITICAL AIMS". THE ARTICLE CONCLUDED THAT
GREAT BRITAIN IS DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE IT HOPED THE
GOP WOULD PURCHASE THE NORVAL NAVY'S NEW SEA HARRIER
VERTICAL TAKE-OFF FIGHTER.

2. COMMENT: OTHER PERUVIAN NAVY SOURCES HAVE TOLD
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THE EMBASSY THAT THERE IS NO SUBSTANCE TO THE REPORT OF
AN ALLEGED YAK PURCHASE. THE BRITISH EMBASSY HERE
WAS SURPRISED BY THE LONDON-BASED REPORT. THE BRITISH AIRCRAFT
CARRIER BULWARK IS STILL APPARENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR POSSIBLE
PURCHASE BY PERU. PARODI HAS CONSISTENTLY TOLD THE
AMBASSADOR AND NAVATTACHE THAT THE PERUVIAN NAVY IS ORIENTED

TOWARED THE US AND THE WEST AND WILL NOT REPEAT NOT PURCHASE
ANY SOVIET EQUIPMENT.
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